Illegal mining in Panna

3350. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that over 90 per cent of the diamonds (worth approximately Rs. 12 crore) mined in placer deposits (shallow mines) and conglomerates spread over two dozen villages are sold illegally or smuggled out of Panna (M.P.) to polishing units in Mumbai and Surat;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are over 3,000 illegal mines in villages in Panna districts; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to curtail the illegal mining in Panna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARYANA RAO): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by State Government of Madhya Pradesh, it is not true that 90 percent of diamonds found in placer deposits are sold illegally or smuggled out of Panna (M.P.) to polishing units in Mumbai and Surat. State Government of Madhya Pradesh has also denied the existence of 3000 illegal mines in villages in Panna district. However, 4 cases of illegal mining around Panna district have been detected in which action has been taken by the State Government.

(c) To effectively curb illicit mining, State Governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals under the provisions of Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Exploration of Mineral Deposits in A.P.

3351. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given approval for sanctioning of reconnaissance permit to Andhra Pradesh Government for exploring mineral deposits in Kurnul, Anantpur, Prakasam, Cuddapah, Chittar, Nellore, Mehaboobnagar, Rangareddy, Gunturand Bukkapattnam districts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of proposals received from the State Government, the number of proposals sanctioned and the proposals still pending with Centre;

(c) the amount released by Centre to the State Government for these mineral deposit exploration operation; and

(d) the details of the achievement made so far under these operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, Central Government has approved 38 number of proposals received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for grant of reconnissance permits (R. P.). Two proposals for grant of reconnaissance permit were not agreed to by Central Government and one proposal is presently pending with Central Government.

(c) No amount has been released by the Central Government to the State Government for these mineral deposit exploration operations since these exploration operations are being done by the private companies/ public sector undertakings from their own resources.

(d) As per the information given by Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under Ministry of Mines, the RP holders have conducted geological traverse geological mapping, geophysical survey, geochemical sampling, reconniassance stream sediment sampling, airborne multi scanner survey, elctro-magnetic and magnetic survey etc. under these reconnaissance operations.

Schemes for handicapped children and women

3352. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes for handicapped children and women formulated and being implemented by Government in the country particularly in Assam;

(b) the amount spent by Government for implementation of these schemes during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have formulated any new scheme in this respect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?